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INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY • • • • DCI CENTER • • • •

# War Crimes, Atrocities, and Human Rights Monitor

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[redacted] NR Record

## Over the Horizon

[redacted] NR Record

- Burma: Threatening To Cease Limited Cooperation With ILO [redacted] (b)(3)

[redacted] NR Record

**Office of the DCI's Special Assistant for War Crime and Related Issues**
Comments and queries are welcome and may be directed to the Special Assistant [redacted] (b)(3)

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These articles represent the views of the components that have submitted them. They do not reflect a coordinated Community view.

The latest version of the National Intelligence Council's Quarterly Atrocity Watchlist can be found [redacted] (b)(3)



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## Burma: Threatening To Cease Limited Cooperation With ILO

Rangoon is likely to shut down International Labor Organization (ILO) operations in Burma if the organization's Governing Body this month reactivates punitive measures against the junta. Many ILO members favor reactivating the Article 33 measures, invoked in 2000 against Burma for the first time ever, to protest the junta's worsening labor situation over the past year, Article 33 of the ILO Constitution allows the ILO Governing Body to "recommend to the conference such action as it may deem wise and expedient," which typically has taken the form of bilateral sanctions:

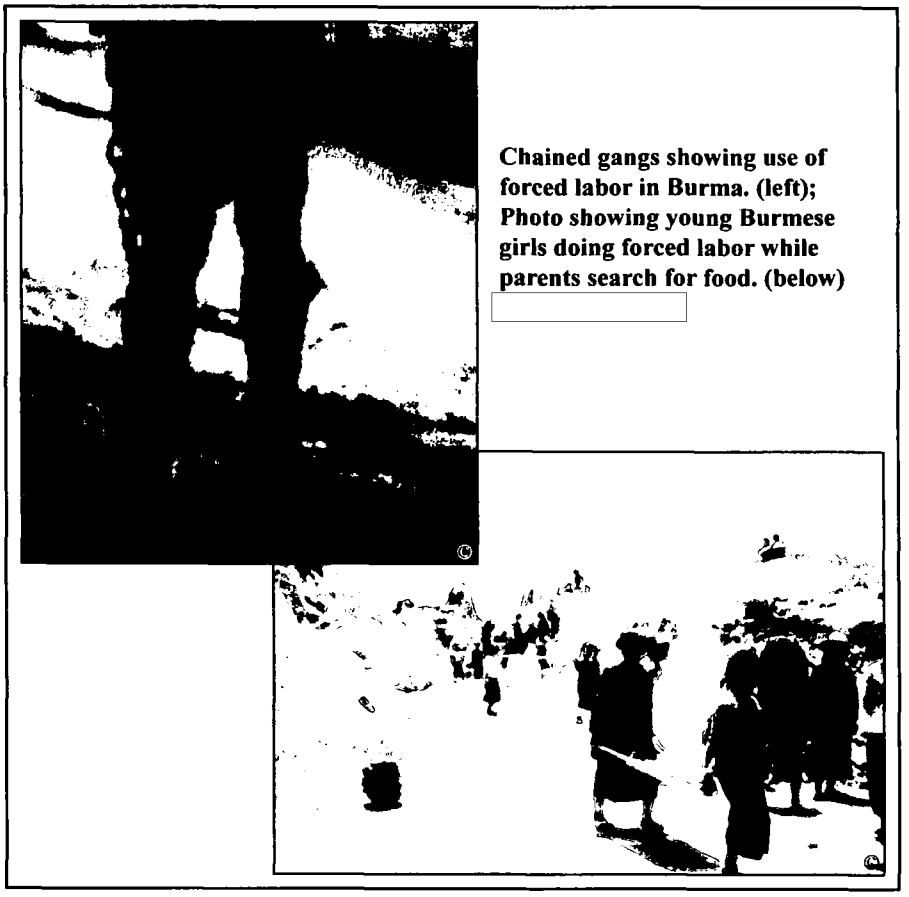
- The SPDC also might respond to Article 33 measures by curbing the humanitarian work in Burma of UN agencies and nongovernmental organizations, especially those tied to ILO member states that strongly endorse the move. (b)(3)

(b)(3)

Thorough documentation of Burma Army (BA) units' renewed use of forced labor for public works projects and continuing imprisonment of Burmese nationals with ILO contacts is putting pressure on the ILO's Governing Body to act decisively. The ILO's Burma representative in September confirmed recent UN High Commissioner for Refugees' reports of a "serious resurgence" in the use of forced labor, adding that the forced labor situation in parts of Burma is the "most serious it has been in years": (b)(1) (b)(3)

- Local BA units in July forced several villages in western Burma to provide 45 laborers per day to

(b)(1) (b)(3)



**Chained gangs showing use of forced labor in Burma. (left); Photo showing young Burmese girls doing forced labor while parents search for food. (below)**

(b)(3)



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rebuild six bridges near the Burma-Bangladesh border or offer cash in lieu of labor as compensation to the SPDC. An ILO representative says the project overseer gave a handful of workers small food packets or a miniscule cash payment but most were not compensated.

- The ILO's Burma representative took photographs this year of children working on road construction projects in Burma.

- Burma's Supreme Court Special Appellate Branch in October ruled that contact between Burmese citizens and the ILO was not against the law but refused to overturn the November 2003 convictions of three Burmese citizens for possessing ILO business cards. The Branch did reduce their sentences—originally, death for high treason and conspiracy—from three to five years, apparently in an attempt to placate international observers.

(b)(3)
(b)(1)
(b)(3)

Rangoon is unlikely to demonstrate a serious commitment to halting its deteriorating labor situation while the ILO Governing Body is in session, although nominal steps are possible. The SPDC's response to ILO evidence of forced labor and criticism for other labor-related abuses has ranged from claims that progress is imminent to outright denial of the problem:

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

- As of September, the ILO had filed 35 interventions this year with the SPDC documenting credible reports of forced labor throughout Burma. Junta officials had responded to approximately two-thirds of the complaints and flatly denied or ignored the remainder. *DI/APLAA*

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

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